

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5858

INFO DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

UEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 1918

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2801

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJ: MORE PRESENTS GOVERNMENT PROGRAM TO PARLIAMENT

SUMMARY: PREIMIER MORO PRESENTED PROGRAM OF HIS MINORITY,
ALL-DC GOVERNMENT TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT FEBRUARY 19.
ECONOMIC AND FOREIGN POLICY ASPECTS BEING REPRTEDE SEPTTEL.
PROGRAM SPEECH CHARACTERIZED BY JUSTIFICATION OF MORO'S
HANDLING OF GOVERNMENT CRISIS, REITERATED DC REFUSAL TO
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BRING COMMUNISTS INTO GOVERNMENT MAJORITY AND PRESENTATION

OF BROAD PROGRAM OF (LONG PENDING) SOCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS CLEARLY BEYOND CAPACITY OF MINORITY GOVERNMENT BUT CONSTITUTING BASIS FOR EVENTUAL DC ELECTORAL PLATFORM. END SUMMARY.

1. IN FEB. 19 PROGRAM SPEECH TO CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, SUBSEQUENTLY REPEATED IN SENATE, PREMIER MORO JUSTIFIED HIS HANDLING OF GOVERNMENT CRISIS. SOCIALIST POSITION THAT CENTER-LEFT DEAD AND DEMAND THAT COMMUNISTS BE ASSOCIATED IN SOME MANNER WITH GOVERNING MAJORITY WERE SEEN AS FUNDAMENTAL CAUSES FOR INABILITY OF DC TO PUT TOGETHER MULTI-PARTY GOVERNMENT. MORO SAID THAT NEITHER HE NOR HIS PARTY LIKE THE ALL-DC FORMULA, BUT WERE OBLIGED TO ACCEPT IT IN ORDER TO AVOID EARLY PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.

2. MORO REITERATED DC POSITION THAT PCI SHOULD STAY IN THE OPPOSITION, BUT SPECIFIED THAT "CONFRONTO" (DIALOGUE) WITH COMMUNISTS IN PARLIAMENT MUST CONTINUE. DC DIFFERENCES WITH PCI ON ISSUE OF "LIBERTY" REMAIN OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE.

3. COMMENTING ON THE POSSIBLE DURATION OF HIS GOVERNMENT, MORO STATED THAT FUTURE OF GOVERNMENT AND EVOLUTION OF POLITICAL SITUATION WILL DEPEND ON OUTCOME OF FORTHCOMING PARTY (DC AND PSI) CONGRESSES.

4. AFTER PRESENTING ECONOMIC PROGRAM OF NEW GOVERNMENT AND REITERATING CONSTANCY OF MAIN LINES OF ITALIAN FOREIGN POLICY (SEPTELS), MORO TICKED OFF SERIES OF LONG PENDING REFORMS WHICH HIS GOVERNMENT WILL SUPPORT.

5. MORO STATED GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AIMED AT GREATER DEGREE OF DECENTRALIZATION OF GOVERNMENT POWERS IN FAVOR OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS. HE INDICATED THAT ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM SUPPORTED BY HIS GOVERNMENT NOT ONLY INCLUDES "RATIONALIZATION" OF ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION BUT RESTORATION OF "PRESTIGE AND CREDIBILITY" OF ADMINISTRATION IN EYES OF PUBLIC. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE LAMENTED IMPACT OF (LOCKHEED) SCANDAL AND ASSURED HIS AUDIENCE THAT GOI HAS ASKED USG TO PROVIDE "ALL THE INFORMATION NECESSARY TO FIX PRECISE RESPONSIBILITIES AND ELIMINATE UNJUST SUSPICIONS." HE ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF A "COMMITTEE OF ADMINISTRATIVE INQUIRY" (SEPTEL) CONFIDENTIAL

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TO ASCERTAIN EVENTUAL "IRREGULARITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES." IN A SEPARATE PORTION OF HIS MESSAGE, BUT WITH CLEAR REFERENCE TO LOCKHEED SCANDAL, MORO EXPRESSED HIS "SOLIDARITY" AND THAT OF HIS GOVERNMENT WITH PRESIDENT LEONE "AT A MOMENT IN WHICH HE HAS BEEN MADE THE OBJECT OF UNJUST ATTACKS."

6. IN PLEDGING GOVERNMENTS' DETERMINATION TO UPHOLD PUBLIC ORDER, MORO ASSURED MEMBERS OF ITALIAN SECURITY FORCES THAT

GOVERNMENT WILL ACTIVELY SEEK TO BETTER THEIR PERSONAL SITUATION WHILE STRIVING TO UPGRADE AND MODERNIZE THEIR ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPMENT.

7. A SIMILAR PITCH WAS MADE TO ARMED FORCES, PRAISING THEIR DEDICATION AND PROMISING BOTH PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENTS TO ASSURE A "DIGINIFIED AND EFFICIENT" PARTICIPATION BY ITALY IN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. MORO ASSURED ARMED FORCES THAT GOVERNMENT WILL SEEK PROMPT PARLIAMENTARY CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION RELATING TO THESE IMPROVEMENTS.

8. MORO WENT ON TO DISCUSS BRIEFLY A NUMBER OF OTHER BASIC PROGRAMS WHICH GOVERNMENT WILL PUSH. THESE INCLUDED SUCH LONG STANDING PROBLEMS AS EDUCATIONA, JUDICIAL, PENAL AND HEALTH REFORMS. MORO ALSO REITERATED HIS GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO CARRY FORWARD NEOTIATIONS WITH THE VATICAN AIMING AT REVISION OF THE CONCORDAT.

9. MORO CONFIRMED THAT HIS ALL-DC GOVERNMENT WILL ADOPT SAME "NEUTRAL" ATTITUDE ON ABORTION ISSUE AS FOLLOWED BY PREVIOUS DC-REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION. GOVERNMENT NEUTRALITY ON PROBLEM WOULD FACILITATE (BUT NOT GUARANTEE) PASSAGE OF COMPROMISE LEGISLATION AND AVOIDANCE OF POPULAR REFERENDUM THIS SPRING ON THIS HIGHLY EMOTIONAL AND POLITICALLY EXPLOSEIVE ISSUE.

10. IMMEDIATE REACTION TO MORO'S MESSAGE WAS TEPID AND FOLLOWED ALREADY ANNOUNCED PARTY LINEUPS: PCI AND MSI AGAINST, SOCIALISTS, REPUBLICANS AND LIBERALS CRITICAL BUT WILLING TO ABSTAIN ON CONDIDENCE VOTE, AND DC AND SOCIAL DMOCRATS FAVORABLE. DEBATE IN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES ON CONFIDENCE VOTE, DURING WHICH PARTIES WILL EXPLAIN THEIR ATTITUDE IN DETAIL, WILL CONTINUE TODAY AND SATURDAY, WITH VOTE EXPECTED SATURDAY EVENING. CONFIDENCE VOTE IN SENATE EXPECTED EARLY NEXT WEEK. CONFIDENTIAL

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4. COMMENT: MORO'S PROGRAM MESSAGE CONTAINED NO SURPRISES AND WAS GENERIC IN ITS PRESCRIPTIONS. MORO HAS ALREADY BEEN CRITICIZED BY COMMUNISTS AS HAVING BITTEN OFF FAR MORE THAN HE CAN CHEW AND EVEN DC SOURCES ADMIT THAT HIS COMPILATION OF DESIRED REFORMS WOULD TAKE YEARS TO REALIZE EVEN WITH A SOLID GOVERNMENT MAJORITY. MAJOR POINT IN SPEECH WITH WHICH ALL EMBASSY SOURCES SEEM TO AGREE IS THAT FATE OF FIFTH MORO GOVERNMENT WILL BE DETERMINED BY RESULTS OF DC AND PSI CONGRESSES IN MARCH. VOLPE

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